

# **S T A T E M E N T**

## **Re: Budget Withholdings**

**January 2, 2003**

I have directed these withholdings as a way to ensure a balanced budget at a time of stagnant growth in the state's economy due to a national recession. If we can move forward expediently with approval of the new securitization proposals we may be able to prevent withholdings to education, including higher education. My goal continues to be to provide responsible management of our budget in a way that protects the most vulnerable Missourians and provides a continued investment in our future. Protecting our investment in education is the most important step we can take to provide better opportunities for our children and to provide jobs for the future.

Gov. Bob Holden